

Professor Lumsden is responsible for the third part of the book, dealing with the clinical pathology of the disease. There are chapters on the proteins of cerebrospinal fluid, the metabolism of amino acids in brain, intermediate carbohydrate metabolism and the levels of various enzymes in cerebrospinal fluid and serum. The lipids of the brain and cerebrospinal fluid are given special consideration in view of their possible intimate involvement in this disease. There is also a chapter on the clinical immunology of multiple sclerosis.

The morbid anatomy of multiple sclerosis is intentionally omitted since there is to follow a separate monograph on the subject.

The extensive lists of references, and the provision of both an author index and a subject index at the end, must enhance the value of this splendid book, particularly to the research worker in the many aspects of the disease. It should provide fascinating reading and food for thought for all who come in contact with it.

K J ZILKHA

Blood and Bone Marrow Cell Culture

by H Jackson Woodliff

MB PhD MRCPE MCPA MCPATH DCP DPATH

pp xiv+141 illustrated 30s

London: Eyre & Spottiswoode 1964

This book is a review of the existing techniques, recent results and future possibilities of *in vitro* culture of cells obtained from blood and bone marrow. It is well and clearly written, contains an extensive list of references and, in addition, has the great merit that it assumes the reader has no previous knowledge of the subject.

The early chapters describe methods of tissue culture in general and how they have been applied to the culture of blood and bone marrow cells. The results of culturing normal cells and cells obtained from patients with a wide variety of blood diseases is described, as well as the effects of nutrients, stimulants, such as phytohaemagglutinin, and cytotoxic drugs on such cultures.

These studies have shed some light on the transformation of megakaryoblasts into normoblasts and have shown that it is possible to demonstrate, *in vitro*, that some leukaemic cells are sensitive and others resistant to a particular drug. However, Dr Woodliff concludes that 'from the amount of work that has gone into such studies the positive results appear rather meagre . . . due to the limitations of present technical methods'. He discusses the future possibilities, which are immense, and hopes that some of them will be realized in the next decade.

This is an excellent book for anyone interested in tissue culture techniques and their application to haematology.

G HAMILTON FAIRLEY

Niacin in Vascular Disorders and Hyperlipemia

compiled and edited by Rudolf Altschul

pp xi+306 illustrated \$11

Springfield, Ill.: Charles C Thomas 1964

This book contains a series of articles on the effects of large doses of nicotinic acid. The editor and principal contributor is Dr Altschul, whose work on oxygen tension and serum lipid levels led him to test nicotinic acid, an agent which was known to affect oxidative metabolism. His contribution sets out the way in which the lipid-lowering action of nicotinic acid was studied, and gives a clear account of the pharmacological properties of the agent. One is glad to find that he makes no claim for its therapeutic value, for while it is clear that it lowers lipid levels, there is no evidence so far that it confers benefit on patients.

What emerges very clearly from this book is the frequency with which troublesome side-effects (especially flushing) occur when lipid-lowering doses are given, so that even if lipid reduction comes to occupy a major place in the management of arterial disease, it is unlikely that niacin will be the most useful way of bringing this about. It is also clear that the way in which the serum lipids are reduced is not yet known, and it is of interest that the agent gives the same change in some liver function tests as the more recently introduced clofibrate.

The book is well produced, is commendably free from errors and has a good author and subject index. It is quite expensive, and is likely to be a book to which workers will refer from time to time, in a library, rather than include it in their own personal collection.

J R A MITCHELL

Atlas of Neuropathology

by W Blackwood, T C Dodds

and J C Sommerville

2nd ed pp xii+234 illustrated 60s

Edinburgh & London: E & S Livingstone 1964

The second edition of this useful volume appears fifteen years after the first, and at a time when students, especially postgraduates, are expected to devote more attention than formerly to the subject of neuropathology. For this reason this atlas, more detailed than its predecessor, is especially welcome, for Professor Blackwood and his colleagues have succeeded in presenting in simple form, and have admirably expressed the essential facts concerning, the commoner occurrences in neuropathological practice. Particularly helpful are the comparative photographs; for instance, we are shown the normal as well as infarcted cortex as revealed with Pickworth's stain and the astrocytes in the normal cortex as well as that in GPI as seen by Cajal's method. The lesions are

precisely pinpointed and the separate centres in the central grey matter are labelled. Details of symptomatology are often carefully explained on anatomical lines as in the account of tabes dorsalis and syringomyelia. The illustrations are of a high order.

W H MCMENEMEY

An Outline of Psychiatry

by Frank Fish MB MRCP DPM

pp 270 32s 6d

Bristol: John Wright 1964

This is a distinctive and enjoyable book. The number of short textbooks on psychiatry steadily grows, but this is a welcome addition. Professor Fish has aimed at a larger comprehensiveness than is usually attempted. A special feature is a potted version of psychoanalytic theory, which takes its place alongside physiological, social and other clinical contributions. As might be expected, the complexity of the subject defies this degree of compression, but it does provide the synoptic view which some believe the undergraduate should have.

The chapter on history is exceptionally good, and there is a very full glossary, although some of the definitions are a little unusual (e.g. Affect: a sudden accentuation of emotion . . .).

Inevitably, when so much is squeezed into such small compass, there is opportunity for a wide range of criticism. For example, German words are too often used when English ones would do, and too scant attention is given to such an important condition as anorexia nervosa. The author promotes his favourite authorities and his own therapeutic preferences, and he usually does this with a dogmatic and even provocative gusto which makes it clear that his personal view is being expressed. But not always. Sometimes one is left in doubt about the origin of certain views, or without sufficient guidance on their relative degree of acceptance.

Nevertheless, this book conveys the general impression that psychiatry is a branch of medicine with a large established body of knowledge, with plenty of discipline and not too much doubt. This may flatter psychiatry, but junior readers will be stimulated and many senior readers should be refreshed.

J J FLEMINGER

Orthodontics in General Dental Practice

by Gordon C Dickson

BCHD(Leeds) FDS DOrth RCS(Eng)

2nd ed pp ix+350 illustrated 45s

London: Pitman Medical 1964

The changes from the first edition of this book are few and small, most of them clearly improvements. The largest of all is a dramatic reduction of price which will be welcomed by all. In spite of

this the quality of presentation remains undiminished.

The general plan of the book is basically arranged, as before, in the form of directions to be followed as treatment evolves. This has created small anomalies such as the discussion of wire ligaturing technique before the description of the twin wire arch for which it is used. It is advisable, therefore, for the reader to have some previous knowledge of the subject. This need is particularly emphasized by the meagre seven pages devoted to extractions in orthodontics. The view may be taken that important decisions on the question of extractions should be referred to a consultant, but there is no hint of this in the text or the introduction.

A larger part of the text is factual and such opinions as are expressed are well considered. As with the first, this second edition can be recommended as a sound book for the general dental practitioner who wishes to increase the scope of orthodontics in his practice.

B C LEIGHTON

Cyclophosphamide (Endoxana)

An Account based on the Proceedings of a

Symposium held at the Royal College of

Surgeons of England, 4 October 1963

(sponsored by Ward, Blenkinsop & Co Ltd)

edited by G Hamilton Fairley DM MRCP

and J M Simister MB BChir

pp xi+200 illustrated 45s

Bristol: John Wright 1964

This book is well edited and clearly presented, the tables and figures are simple and there is a very complete bibliography for the drug as well as a good subject index.

The articles consist of observations on the effect of cyclophosphamide on a wide variety of tumours including lymphosarcoma, Hodgkin's disease, multiple myeloma, carcinoma of the ovary and bronchus; there is also a chapter on its immunosuppressive effects. Unfortunately no direct comparison of cyclophosphamide with any other alkylating agent is reported here nor is its place in relation to radiotherapy clearly defined.

In his foreword Mr Victor Riddell writes: 'Although over eight hundred papers relating to cyclophosphamide have been published in the world's literature since Arnold and his colleagues announced the synthesis of the compound in 1958, the true clinical value of the drug is still not precisely known.' This statement is still true despite the publication of this symposium. However, the book contains a large number of observations on the beneficial and toxic effects of this agent and will be useful to those working in the field of cancer chemotherapy.

EVE WILTSHAW